

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

E/H/F/W.3
25 June 1946

ORIGINAL ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE I ON SCOPE AND FUNCTIONS

Amendments to Sections I, II and III Proposed By
Delegation of Australia

UNITED NATIONS HEALTH ORGANIZATION

CONSTITUTION

I PREAMBLE

The States parties to this Convention consider the following to be basic truths:

1. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
2. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of individual health is one of the absolute rights of every human being.
3. The highest attainable standard of individual and communal health among its citizens is an important factor in the security and well-being of any State.
4. Freedom from disease, insecurity and want, can only be attained and maintained when all are born sound; are protected against preventable disease, undue industrial hazards and gross physical hardships; have available as required adequate corrective services; are adequately nourished; and, have the emotional stability derived from these conditions.
5. Undue difference between the standards States accept and between the measures they take for the promotion of physical, mental and social well-being, and for the correction of ill-health, constitute a threat to the health of the peoples of all States and to harmonious relationships.

6. The experience of any State in the promotion and maintenance of physical, mental and social well-being, and in the correction of ill-health, is of direct value to all States.

7. Every State has a responsibility for the health of its people which can be discharged:

- (a) by the continued development among them of properly informed opinions regarding individual and communal health;
- (b) by securing their active co-operation in measures requisite to attain and maintain health; and
- (c) by the provision of adequate health services adapted to national and international needs.

8. A complete international health service requires:

- (a) the effective distribution to all peoples of information as it is established by research concerning the physical, mental and social aspects of health, and its relation to the individual and to the community;
- (b) the co-operation of all States as and when necessary; and,
- (c) since the universal attainment of the ideals on which a complete international health service depends is remote, the recognition of the fact that the health and the welfare of all children - the world citizens of tomorrow - are of paramount importance and require for their protection and development assiduous care and close co-operation between the Organization and other interested agencies.

In virtue of these truths and because the fifty-one nations signatory to the United Nations Charter agreed that the solution of international health problems is a means, among other, to attain peaceful and friendly relations among nations, the parties to this Convention HEREBY ESTABLISH the UNITED NATIONS HEALTH ORGANIZATION as a specialized agency through which all member States will co-operate for the protection and promotion of health throughout the world.

II AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the United Nations Health Organization are:

- (a) to achieve for all peoples the highest attainable state of physical, mental and social well-being through international collaboration and mutual assistance; and
- (b) to contribute by this means to the harmony of human relationships.

III FUNCTIONS

In order to achieve the above mentioned aims and objectives the United Nations Health Organization shall be the general directing and co-ordinating authority in international health work, where that work is done by the Organization alone or by it in conjunction with other agencies.

Its functions are:

- (a) to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information regarding legislation and applied techniques concerning health in its protective and curative aspects; in its physical, mental and social aspects; and in its public, private, institutional and economic aspects, by the establishment and/or maintenance of services for that purpose, and by co-operation with other interested agencies;
- (b) to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate epidemiological and statistical information pertaining to health and related subjects, by the establishment and/or maintenance of services for that purpose;
- (c) to foster improved standards of teaching and training in the medical and related professions, by means of fellowships, specialist courses, study-tours, exchange visits and other practicable means;
- (d) to promote research in the field of health;
- (e) to promote conventions and prepare and recommend for adoption, in accordance with the constitutional procedures of member States, agreements and regulations with respect to international health and sanitary matters, and to perform functions and duties assigned thereby; and, without limiting the generality of this function, to promote, establish by agreement, and, from time to time revise as desirable:

- (i) international nomenclature of diseases, of causes of death, and of other items appropriate to public health practice;
 - (ii) standardized diagnostic procedures of international significance;
 - (iii) international standards for the safety, purity and potency of pharmaceutical, biological and similar products moving in international commerce;
 - (iv) international sanitary and quarantine requirements and similar procedures designed to prevent the international spread of disease;
 - (v) international conditions with respect to the labelling of pharmaceutical, biological and similar products moving in international commerce.
- (f) To assist member States at their own request to strengthen their national health services; and, in emergencies, to furnish appropriate technical assistance and such other aid for health as it may approve to any people or group of people, on the request of any member State concerned.
- (g) To promote especially maternal and child health;
- (h) To co-operate with other specialized agencies in promoting the improvement of nutrition, working conditions, housing and other factors related to environmental hygiene and sanitation;
- (i) To promote work to eradicate disease, particularly of an epidemic, endemic or social nature;
- (j) To foster, in association with other appropriate agencies, such activities as improve mental health and tend to harmonize human relationships;
- (k) To provide or assist in providing, upon the request of the United Nations, health services and facilities to special groups, including the peoples of trust territories and displaced persons.

(l) to establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations; with other specialised inter-governmental organizations having related responsibilities; and, with such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate; and

(m) generally to take all necessary and appropriate action to implement the purposes of the Organization.
